

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 1 and 7 as anticipated by Soll et al is respectfully traversed insofar as this ground of rejection is applied to the claims as presently amended. The reference to Soll, as admitted by the Examiner, is limited to the use of chondroitin sulfate in the disclosed process. By the above amendment, the claims now exclude the use of chondroitin sulfate, thereby rendering them novel over the disclosure of Soll. Since the claims are no longer anticipated by Soll, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants have earnestly endeavored to place the application in condition for allowance and an early action toward that end is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2315-904733) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 3, 2007

By: 

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